United Nations

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Twentieth session
(4-8 April 2005)

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixtieth Session
Supplement No. 8 (A/60/8)

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* The full proceedings of the Governing Council on the work of its twentieth session, containing, among other things, chapters on the discussions under each agenda item, are being circulated as document HSP/GC/20/14.

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Introduction

1. The Governing Council was established in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001.

2. The report of the Governing Council on the work of its twentieth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162 and paragraph 7 of section A of General Assembly resolution 56/206.

3. The Governing Council consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States. At present, the Governing Council is composed of the following members[1] and has one vacant seat:

Antigua and Barbuda***
Argentina*
Bangladesh***
Belarus**
Belgium***
Brazil*
Bulgaria**
Burkina Faso*
Burundi*
Canada***
Chile*
China***
Congo**
Costa Rica**
Czech Republic***
Democratic Republic of the Congo*
Ecuador*
France***
Germany**
Ghana***
Greece**
Haiti***
India**
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya***
Malawi*
Mexico**
Netherlands*
Nigeria**
Norway**
Pakistan*
Paraguay**
Philippines**
Poland*
Russian Federation*
Rwanda***
Saudiai Arabia**
Senegal*
Sierra Leone*
Slovakia**
South Africa**
Spain**
Sri Lanka**
Swaziland**
Sweden***
Tanzania***
Trinidad and Tobago**
Turkey*

[1] The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 7th plenary meeting of the Economic and Social Council, held on 3 May 2000, the 4th plenary meeting held on 29 April 2002, the 41st plenary meeting held on 26 July 2002, the 51st plenary meeting held on 31 October 2003, the 9th plenary meeting held on 29 April 2003, the 11th and 12th plenary meetings held on 4 May 2004, and the 15th plenary meeting held on 23 June 2004.

Indonesia*
Iran, Islamic Republic of*
Israel**
Japan*
Jordan**
Kenya**
Uganda***
United Arab Emirates***
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
United States of America*

* Term of office expires on 31 December 2006.
** Term of office expires on 31 December 2007.
*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2008.

4. The twentieth session of the Governing Council was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Nairobi, from 4 to 8 April 2005.

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

5. The twentieth session of the Governing Council was opened on Monday, 4 April 2005, by Mr. Bo Göransson, the President of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

6. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, delivered a tribute to the memory of the late Pope John Paul II, who had died on 2 April 2005, and led the Governing Council in a minute of silence in his honour.

7. The tribute was followed by a welcoming performance by the United Nations staff choir, Song Birds.

8. Following that performance, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, was read out by the Executive Director. The text of the Secretary-General's message is reproduced in annex II to the present report.

9. Opening statements were made by: Mr. Paul Okwaro, President of the United Nations Nairobi Staff Union; Ms. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Laureate and Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya; and Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Summaries of those statements may be found in annex III to the present report.

10. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat then delivered a policy statement. A summary of her statement appears in annex IV to the present report.

11. The policy statement was followed by a performance by children from a Kenyan primary school in Kawangware, a slum area in Nairobi.

12. The President of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Mwai Kibaki, then addressed the Governing Council and inaugurated the session. A summary of his statement is provided in annex III to the present report.

B. Attendance

13. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented:

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Canada
Chile
China
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Israel
Japan
Kenya
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Sweden
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America

14. The following States not members of the Governing Council participated as observers:

Afghanistan	Iraq
Algeria	Italy
Angola	Kuwait
Austria	Lesotho
Bahrain	Liberia
Barbados	Luxembourg
Benin	Maldives
Bhutan	Morocco
Botswana	Mozambique
Cambodia	Nepal
Cameroon	Portugal
Chad	Republic of Korea
Colombia	Somalia
Comoros	Sudan
Côte d'Ivoire	Switzerland
Cuba	Thailand
Egypt	Tunisia
Eritrea	Ukraine
Ethiopia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Finland	Yemen
Gambia	Zambia
Guinea	Zimbabwe

15. Observers to UN-Habitat for the Holy See and the Palestinian Authority also participated.

16. The following United Nations bodies were represented: Office of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Centre for Regional Development, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

17. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

18. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Union, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Commission, Islamic Development Bank, Shelter Afrique.

19. Representatives of the following national and regional assemblies and parliaments, local authorities and national, regional and international associations of local authorities attended the meeting: Administration of Nakhodka City (Russian Federation), Administration of Shkotovsky Municipality (Russian Federation), Arab Towns Organization (Kuwait), Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya, Banjul City Council (Gambia), Barcelona City Council (Spain), Bukoba Town Council (United Republic of Tanzania), Brazzaville Municipality, Bukoba Urban Water and Sewerage Authority (United Republic of Tanzania), Chengdu Municipality (China), Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Congress of Municipalities of the Russian Federation, Council of European Councils, Dar es Salaam City Council (United Republic of Tanzania), Dubai Municipality, Hangzhou Construction Ministry (China), Homa Bay Municipal Council (Kenya), Jinja Municipal Council (Uganda), Kyotera Town Council (Uganda), La Union Province (Philippines), Málaga City Council (Spain), Metropolis, Moscow City Government, Mutukula Town Council (Uganda), Naivasha Municipality (Kenya), Nanjing Municipal Government (China), National Assembly of People's Power (Cuba), Njeru Town Council, (Uganda), Nyeri Muncipal Council (Kenya), Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (India), Rio de Janeiro Municipality (Brazil), San Fernando City Council (Philippines), Shah Alam City Council (Malaysia), Swansea City Council (United Kingdom), The Hague City Council representing Eurocities, Tororo Municipal Council (Uganda), United Cities and Local Governments, Voi Municipality (Kenya),World Association of Major Metropolises.

20. In addition, 129 non-governmental and private sector organizations were represented. A full list of the non-governmental organizations attending the session, together with the names and contacts of their representatives, may be found in the final list of participants, which is available under the symbol HSP/GC/20/INF/12.

C. Election of officers

21. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 4 April 2005, Mr. Petr Kopřiva (Czech Republic) was elected President of the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

22. Mr. Kopřiva took the Chair and expressed his thanks to the Governing Council for the confidence and support which it had shown towards him and his country.

23. The following other officers were also elected for the session:

Vice-Presidents:	Mr. José Luis Casal (Argentina)
	Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany)
	Ms. Rosalinda Valenton Tirona (Philippines)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Edna Deimi Tobi (Nigeria)

D. Credentials

24. In pursuance of rule 16, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau reported to the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on 8 April 2005, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the twentieth session of the Governing Council and had found them to be in order. The Governing Council approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

25. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda for the twentieth session, as contained in document HS/GC/20/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.
5. Special themes:

   (a) Involvement of civil society in improving local governance;

   (b) Post-conflict, natural and human-made disasters assessment and reconstruction.
6. Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers.
7. Recommendations on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities.
8. Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.
9. Work programme of UN-Habitat for the 2006–2007 biennium and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the 2006–2007 biennium.
10. Coordination matters:

    (a) Cooperation between UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme;

    (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

(c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Governing Council.

11. Themes for the twenty-first and other future sessions of the Governing Council.

12. Other matters.

13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council.

14. Adoption of the report of the session.

15. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

26. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 April 2005, the Governing Council established a sessional Committee of the Whole, to which it allocated agenda items 5 (a), 5 (b), 6, 9, 10 (a), 10 (b), 10 (c) and 11. The remaining items were considered in plenary. Items 6, 9 and 10 were also given preliminary consideration in plenary during the general debate in the high-level segment.

27. As recommended in the annotated provisional agenda (HSP/GC/20/1/Add.1, annex III) and the clarification thereto (HSP/GC/20/1/Add.2), it was decided that the plenary should divide its work into three segments: first, a high-level segment, chaired by the President of the Council, which was held on 4 and 5 April 2005, and at which the Governing Council considered agenda items 4, 6, 9 and 10; second, a dialogue on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, which took place on the morning of 6 April 2005; and third, a dialogue on financing shelter and urban development, which took place on the afternoon of 6 April 2005.

28. A summary by the President of the Council of the debate in the high-level segment is given in annex V below.

29. The Governing Council also established a drafting committee to consider the draft resolutions submitted to the Governing Council.

G. Work of the Committee of the Whole

30. The Committee of the Whole, which was chaired by Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany), Vice-President of the Governing Council, held six meetings, from 4 to 8 April 2005. An account of the discussions in the Committee on agenda items 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 may be found in the chapters of the proceedings (HSP/GC/20/14) on those items.

31. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 4 April 2005, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group to discuss the work programme of UN-Habitat and the budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the 2006–2007 biennium, to meet during the current session and to be chaired by Ms. Rosalinda Valenton Tirona (Philippines).

H. Work of the drafting committee and adoption of resolutions by the Governing Council

32. The drafting committee, which was chaired by Mr. José Luis Casal (Argentina), Vice-President of the Governing Council, held four informal and five formal meetings, between 5 and 8 April 2005. The committee reached agreement on 21 draft resolutions.

33. The resolutions, as adopted by the Governing Council, are contained in annex I to the present report.

II. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council

34. The Governing Council considered agenda item 13 at its 8th meeting, on Friday, 8 April. It adopted decision 20/1 on the provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the text of which is reproduced in annex I.

35. On the recommendation of the Bureau, it was agreed that the question of the dates and venue of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council would be determined by the Committee of Permanent Representatives after further consultation, and taking into account paragraphs 14 and 15 of General Assembly resolution 59/265 on the pattern of conferences, whereby the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development must be held at least two weeks after the closure of meetings of relevant bodies. The fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was scheduled to be held in New York from 30 April to 11 May 2007. It was noted that the Good Friday and Easter Monday holidays in 2007 would fall on 6 and 9 April and, in addition, that the six- and ten-week rules for the submission of documentation for the session of the Economic and Social Council in 2007 must be observed in submitting the report of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council. The Committee of Permanent Representatives would consult the Executive Director, the Chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Chair of the United Nations Committee on Conferences and the Office of Legal Affairs at United Nations Headquarters on the issue and, once a decision had been taken, it would be communicated by the Executive Director to all Member States.

III. Adoption of the report of the session

36. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 7 and 8 April 2005, the Committee of the Whole adopted the report on its deliberations, on the basis of the draft report which had been circulated in the meeting. The contents of that report were incorporated into the proceedings of the session, in the chapters on the relevant agenda items.

37. The present report was adopted by the Governing Council at its 8th plenary meeting, on 8 April 2005, on the basis of the draft which had been circulated during the session and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the finalization of the document.

IV. Closure of the session

38. In her closing statement, the Executive Director thanked the representatives of member States, local authorities, civil society organizations and all other participants for the meaningful discussions that had led to the adoption of significant resolutions, and congratulated them on forging a consensus despite their differing points of view. The decisions taken by the Governing Council would help guide UN-Habitat and its many partners towards the fulfilment of the Millennium Declaration targets and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The Governing Council had once again reaffirmed the plight of the world's urban poor as one of the irrevocable priorities on the world's development agenda.

39. With regard to the approved budget for 2006-2007, she reaffirmed the commitment of UN-Habitat to developing an overarching mobilization strategy to increase non-earmarked contributions and the donor base by the time of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council and gave special thanks to the Governments of Germany and Sweden and to the German chemicals manufacturing company, [illegible], for their financial contributions during the twentieth session. Priority had been accorded to the Slum Upgrading Facility, which would receive at least $30 million. Noting that, in recognition of the primary role of the World Urban Forum in expanding the human settlements agenda and civic values as a component of governance, the Governing Council had agreed to finance the next World Urban Forum to be hosted in Vancouver, Canada, in 2006, she reiterated that the Programme would not be able to serve effectively without sufficient funding. She therefore appealed to Member States to support its work by providing the resources for the budget that had been approved. She would continue in her efforts to mobilize resources to enable the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and would invite OIOS to undertake a review of the current administrative arrangements at UN-Habitat, including a review of the Programme's relationship with the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to enable both organizations to function more effectively and efficiently.

40. Expressing her appreciation of the Council's endorsement of the recruitment of Habitat Programme Managers and the agreement that their future deployment should be taken up as part of the strategic and institutional plan to be developed at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, she said that she would, in the meantime, undertake an independent strategic evaluation of the performance and impact of those managers, and present a report on her findings at the twenty-first session. She also welcomed the endorsement of the role of UN-Habitat in post conflict and human-made disasters and in solving issues relating to women's land property rights and ensuring gender equality, and appreciated the commitment shown by Member States to strengthen the activities of UN-Habitat.

41. Recalling that the first Monday in October every year had been designated as World Habitat Day, she announced that the theme of World Habitat Day 2005, to be marked on 3 October 2005, was "The Millennium Development Goals and the City" and that particular emphasis would be placed on promoting a slum upgrading and disaster mitigation programme in Indonesia. She urged members of the Council to make nominations for the prestigious Habitat Scroll of Honour award, which would be presented on that day.

42. Paying special tribute to Mr. Joseph Mungai, Secretary to the Governing Council and Chief of External Relations and Inter-Agency Affairs of UN-Habitat, and to Mr. Jay Moor, Special Advisor on Policy and Planning of UN-Habitat, she wished them both a well-earned retirement.

43. Summaries of closing statements, some by representatives of regional groups, are provided in annex VII to the proceedings (HSP/GC/20/14).

44. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President of the Governing Council declared the twentieth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme closed at 7 p.m. on Friday, 8 April 2005.

Annex I

Decisions and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twentieth session

A. Decisions

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
20/1	Provisional agenda of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	8 April 2005	13

B. Resolutions

Resolution No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
20/1	Youth and human settlements	8 April 2005	14
20/2	Establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development	8 April 2005	17
20/3	Preservation and sustainable development of oases	8 April 2005	19
20/4	Least developed countries	8 April 2005	20
20/5	Access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements	8 April 2005	21
20/6	Best practices, good policies and enabling legislation in support of sustainable urbanization and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals	8 April 2005	23
20/7	Gender equality in human settlements development	8 April 2005	25
20/8	Sustainable development of Arctic cities	8 April 2005	28

Resolution No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
20/9	Small island developing States	8 April 2005	29
20/10	World Urban Forum	8 April 2005	31
20/11	Strengthening the Slum Upgrading Facility of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation	8 April 2005	32
20/12	Global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance	8 April 2005	34
20/13	Housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for persons who are vulnerable and disadvantaged	8 April 2005	36
20/14	Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People	8 April 2005	38
20/15	Habitat Programme Managers and regional offices	8 April 2005	39
20/16	Enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance	8 April 2005	42
20/17	Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction	8 April 2005	43
20/18	Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities	8 April 2005	45
20/19	Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the 2006–2007 biennium	8 April 2005	47
20/20	Thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development	8 April 2005	51
20/21	Organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council	8 April 2005	53

A. Decisions

Decision 20/1: Provisional agenda of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: progress report of the Executive Director.
6. Special themes: (to be determined according to the procedure set forth in resolution 20/21 on themes for the twenty-first and other future sessions of the Governing Council).
7. Consideration of a medium-term strategic and institutional plan for UN-Habitat.
8. Cooperation with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners.
9. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the 2008–2009 biennium and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the 2008–2009 biennium.
10. Coordination matters:
    (a) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;
    (b) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Governing Council.
11. Other matters.
12. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council.
13. Adoption of the report of the session.
14. Closure of the session.

B. Resolutions

Resolution 20/1: Youth and human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda,[1] specifically those paragraphs relating to youth and participation and most notably among them, those paragraphs[2] which stress the importance of partnership and involvement,

Recalling also its resolutions 17/19 of 14 May 1999, 18/3 of 16 February 2001 and 18/8 of 16 February 2001 on partnership with youth and 19/13 of 9 May 2003 on enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Acknowledging the importance for children and youth of participating in the shaping of their environment and of freedom of association, bearing in mind applicable human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recognizing that young people are key agents for sustainable human settlements development and a vital resource in achieving the development goals related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3]

Concerned that social exclusion and poverty limit young people's involvement and participation in society and hamper them in realizing their potential as agents of social change,

Especially concerned that girls and young women and indigenous young people are particularly at risk of exclusion and discrimination, and that gender inequalities also negatively affect boys and young men,

Recognizing that young people are in an important transitional period of their lives, during which habits and attitudes necessary for good citizenship are established,

Noting the experiences from youth information and resource centres aiming to provide free, impartial and low-threshold information services to all young people,

Convinced that comprehensive policy approaches implemented at national and local levels aimed at increased community participation by young people will

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1 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2 Paragraphs 13, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32 and 33.

3 General Assembly resolution 55/2.

make important contributions to accelerating the processes towards sustainable human sett' nents development,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made in the framework of the Youth Employment Network to increase the employability of young people,

Taking note of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance, which promotes the involvement of young people in local governance, the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in support of vulnerable young people within the framework of the Safer Cities Programme and of the Global Partnership Initiative on Urban Youth Development in Africa,

Taking note also of the draft strategy on enhancing the engagement of youth and youth organizations in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Noting with appreciation that some countries have taken steps to include youth representatives in their delegations,

1. Requests the Executive Director to finalize the Youth Strategy for Enhanced Engagement, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and to develop an action plan for implementation, including an internal evaluation which takes into consideration inputs from youth organizations,

2. Also requests the Executive Director to continue to strengthen and mainstream the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with other United Nations agencies where necessary, on the engagement of young people in human settlements development and in addressing the problems of young people at risk, especially girls and young women;

3. Encourages the Executive Director and local and central governments to draw on the experiences of other stakeholders working in the area of youth participation and youth information;

4. Invites Governments and other partners to assist in capacity-building by providing sources to young people and their organizations, in order to promote inclusiveness, responsiveness and transparency in local governance and community development, and to enable young people to participate in international, national and local activities related to sustainable environmental and human settlements development;

5. Encourages Governments and youth organizations to support the creation of representative and democratic national youth councils;

6. Also encourages Governments, local authorities and civil society to support and implement enabling strategies in cooperation with relevant youth organizations and youth movements, by among other things, providing young people, especially those living in urban areas, with education and training to

enhance their vocational and entrepreneurial skills so that they may secure their own employment;

7. Encourages local and central governments to support forms of cultural and recreational expression to enable young people living in slums and inner cities to play an active role in support of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

8. Recommends the Executive Director to initiate a study, subject to availability of funds, in collaboration with relevant Habitat Agenda partners, on the effects of social and economic conditions related to urbanization on the inter-generational transfer of values conducive to good citizenship and on the manner in which national and local governments can assist this process where necessary;

9. Urges Governments, local authorities, Habitat Agenda partners and youth-serving organizations to establish youth information and resource centres, where feasible, with the aim of reaching all young people, including vulnerable youth groups;

10. Invites local authorities to establish city-to-city partnerships for developing, exchanging and improving best practices on youth participation in decision-making processes, in close partnership with local formal and informal youth movements;

11. Requests the Executive Director, within the framework of the Habitat Agenda, to support local, regional, national and international youth organizations in developing partnerships with other youth organizations in their own regions, and also in other regions;

12. Also requests the Executive Director to facilitate the participation of representative youth organizations and of youth movements at important meetings of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and to make arrangements for youth caucuses before and during meetings at future sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the World Urban Forum;

13. Urges Governments to include young people drawn from representative youth organizations and youth movements in their national delegations to sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the World Urban Forum;

14. Also urges Governments in a position to do so and other partners to provide the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with resources for youth activities, particularly in the least developed countries, through available mechanisms, and to increase development assistance to those countries aimed at youth activities;

15. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the youth strategy and action plan, at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council.

Resolution 20/2: Establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling the call in the Habitat Agenda[4] for the establishment or strengthening of cooperative mechanisms to integrate commitments and actions concerning adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development into policies, programmes and operations,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001, paragraph 65, which, among other things, reiterated the need for the political will of all States and for specific action at the international level to inspire, to encourage and to strengthen existing and innovative forms of cooperation and partnership, and coordination at all levels, to contribute effectively to the improvement of shelter conditions, especially in developing countries,

Recognizing the work of other conferences of ministers in the area of human settlements, such as the Assembly of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, established in 1992, and its collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the development of its activities,

Cognizant of General Assembly resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002, in which heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly held on 16 September 2002 recommitted themselves to meeting the special needs of Africa as recognized in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] and in the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2001 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002, which calls upon the United Nations system, within its mandates, to align its activities in Africa with the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

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[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Welcoming the collaboration between the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through the Cities Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Taking note of decision 29 of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, by which the Assembly requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue rendering support to the Commission of the African Union in promoting the development of sustainable cities and towns in Africa,

Welcoming the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, which is to serve as the regional consultative mechanism on the promotion of the sustainable development of human settlements in Africa under the auspices of the African Union,

Taking note of the enhanced framework of implementation in promoting sustainable cities in Africa as articulated by the inaugural conference of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development,

1. Requests the Executive Director to work closely with the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in achieving the aims of the Habitat Agenda and in accelerating the achievement in Africa of the internationally agreed goals of the Millennium Declaration, taking into account the past experience of the Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. Encourages the Executive Director to render the necessary support to the activities of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and to explore the possibility of facilitating the exchange of experiences between the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. Requests the Executive Director to continue providing support for the implementation of the Cities Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development initiated in seven cities in Africa and invites Governments which are in a position to do so to contribute generously to funding the Programme;

4. Invites Governments in other regions to strengthen or establish similar consultative structures and to use them in raising the profile of issues addressed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to inform the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the progress made by the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban

Development and also to report on the implications which it may have for the programme of work and the budget.

Resolution 20/3: Preservation and sustainable development of oases

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda,[6] which emphasized the importance of promoting environmentally sustainable, healthy and liveable human settlements, the conservation of the historical and cultural heritage and the balanced development of settlements in rural regions,

Taking into account the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] to the principles of sustainable development and to the full implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recognizing that oases are facing multiple and complex challenges, reaching crisis situations in the areas of human settlements deterioration, water stress, degradation of cultural heritage, limited diversity of economic activity and lack of infrastructure,

Noting with concern that oases are fragile ecosystems which are being threatened by current economic trends, which are having an impact on the capacity of entire regions to protect themselves from desertification,

Noting also with concern the social inequities associated with the general degradation of oases, especially with the decline of agricultural activities and growing poverty, primarily affecting women, who are often the main productive force of the oases but are seldom recognized in decision-making processes,

Acknowledging the importance of oases as nodes for urban-rural linkages and their potential for social and economic development though tourism and specific forms of agricultural production,

Expressing appreciation for the current cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other concerned bodies within and outside the United Nations system to promote sustainable human settlements development in arid regions,

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[6] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

1. Requests the Executive Director to take into account the specific needs of oases in the global programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, particularly in the Sustainable Cities and Localizing Agenda 21 programmes;

2. Urges concerned Governments at all levels to create an enabling legal, institutional, administrative and financial environment to combat the social, economic and environmental degradation of oases in an integrated manner, giving a central role to local communities and taking into account their needs and priorities;

3. Invites all Habitat Agenda partners to support concerted efforts towards the sustainable management of oases, including through joint programming, funding and execution of upgrading activities;

4. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen mechanisms for consultation and partnership between interested parties with regard to the preparation and implementation of local environment plans and Localizing Agenda 21 initiatives to address human settlements issues affecting oases.

Resolution 20/4: Least developed countries

The Governing Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 59/244 of 23 December 2004 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Welcoming the endorsement by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,

Noting with concern the rapid rate of urbanization in the developing countries, which include 50 least developed countries, of which 34 are in Africa alone, and the fact that the process is accompanied by the growth of slums, poverty, insecurity, risk and vulnerability and frequent natural and human-made disasters,

Noting the work which the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has carried out in post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction in affected least developed countries such as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Haiti, Liberia, Maldives, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia and Timor-Leste,

[8] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

1. Requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue to give special attention to the least developed countries in its normative and operational activities;

2. Invites Governments of least developed countries to prepare, adopt and begin to implement national development strategies to meet the internationally agreed development goals;

3. Invites Governments of developed countries and Habitat Agenda[9] partners in a position to do so to provide increased and sustained development assistance to least developed countries which are preparing and implementing the aforementioned national development strategies;

4. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in activities of the Programme, as called for in General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001;

5. Calls upon the Executive Director to contribute, in accordance with her mandate, to the effective implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010.

Resolution 20/5: Access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[10] and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to reduce by half, by the year 2015, the proportion of people unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, and to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020,

Recalling also the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, which calls for the promotion of access to safe drinking water for all and the facilitation of the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport through

[9] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

transparent and accountable management of public services, and also partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations, for the delivery of those services,[11]

Taking into account the work of the twelfth session of United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, which recognized the key roles of central and local governments, the private and other non-governmental sectors and populations themselves in improving access to basic services for all,

Taking into account also the proposal to develop a set of codes and recommendations on partnerships and on the role of those various actors submitted during the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the working paper entitled "Access to basic services for all: towards an international declaration on partnerships", produced by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and based on informal consultations with various partners,

Taking into account further the recommendation of the participants at the second session of the World Urban Forum, held in September 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, to include the item "Access to basic services for all" in the agenda of the twentieth session of the Governing Council,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004 and in particular its thirteenth preambular paragraph, which emphasizes the importance of access to basic services for the urban poor and in that regard taking note of its resolution 19/6 of 9 May 2003 on water and sanitation in cities,

Noting the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and United Nations Institute for Training and Research initiative on access to basic services for all, which includes principles and guidelines,

Considering the need expressed by all stakeholders to integrate basic services into national and local strategic plans to reduce poverty,

1. Reaffirms the importance of developing partnerships between central and local governments, the private sector, civil society and populations themselves with a view to increasing national and local financial resources and capacities directed towards improving access to basic services for all;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to compile best practices on policies, norms and institutional conditions related to the delivery of basic services within the context of sustainable human settlements, focusing on the respective roles and responsibilities of national Governments and local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners;

[11] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, para. 59.

3. Also requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to identify underlying principles on access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements which can be drawn from those best practices, and to present a report on best practices and principles for discussion by the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to invite relevant United Nations bodies and also Governments and interested stakeholders to comment on that draft report and on the way forward;

5. Requests the Executive Director to take those comments into account in revising and finalizing a report which also contains options on the way forward, including recommendations on guiding principles on the delivery of and access to basic services for all, drawn from that process, and to submit it to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session for its consideration;

6. Invites Governments to establish, in accordance with good governance practices, clear institutional and financial frameworks to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various actors and to promote partnerships for sustainable access to basic services for all within the context of sustainable human settlements, taking into account environmental and gender concerns;

7. Invites interested Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to provide support, including financial support, for that process.

Resolution 20/6: Best practices, good policies and enabling legislation in support of sustainable urbanization and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraphs 207 and 240 of the Habitat Agenda[12], which call upon the international community to monitor and evaluate its own performance through documented best practices and to promote and facilitate the transfer of expertise in support of the implementation of plans of action through the sharing of lessons learned from best practices,

Recalling also the Dubai Declaration issued by the International Conference on Best Practices held in Dubai from 19 to 22 November 1995,[13]

Recalling further the Habitat Agenda, which was issued following the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996, recognizing the establishment of the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment,

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[12] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[13] A/52/136, annex I, para. 1.

Recalling its resolutions 17/1 of 14 May 1999 and 18/10 of 16 February 2001 and paragraph 63 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[14] of June 2001 inviting the international community to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through, among other things, peer-to-peer learning, city-to-city transfers and international exchanges based on best practices, good policies and action plans,

Noting with appreciation the substantial contributions by Dubai Municipality and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the successful implementation of the Dubai International Awards for Best Practices in partnership with members of the Best Practices Steering Committee and the Together Foundation in documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned, as witnessed by over 2,200 documented practices from over 140 countries contained in the best practices database,

Noting also with appreciation the initiatives by members of the Best Practices Steering Committee in establishing a North-North network focusing on issues of sustainable urbanization for human settlements located above the thirty-fifth parallel, and in publishing a best practices magazine in several languages,

Noting the seminal work undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in developing and field-testing a cost-effective methodology for unpacking and assessing pro-poor gender-sensitive urban policies and enabling legislation in support of the attainment of internationally agreed development goals,

Commending Dubai Municipality on its commitment to the undertaking of a decennial evaluation of the Dubai International Awards for Best Practices with a view to focusing the next ten years on promoting the transfer of best practices and lessons learned and to the organization, for that purpose, in 2006, of the Dubai International Conference on the Transfer of Best Practices for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals,

Commending also the Municipality of Medellín, with the support of the Ibero-American-Caribbean Forum on Best Practices, on its commitment to sponsoring the Medellín Award for Best Practice Transfers for the Latin American and Caribbean region to be launched on the occasion of an international conference in Medellín in November 2005,

Bearing in mind that the effective scaling up and transfer of best practices and lessons learned in support of the attainment of internationally agreed development goals depends to a large extent on a pro-poor, gender-sensitive and enabling policy and legislative environment,

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[14] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

Welcoming the progress made in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programe Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme,

1. Urges Dubai Municipality and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue their collaboration in the implementation of the Dubai International Award for Best Practices and the organization of the Dubai International Conference on the Transfer of Best Practices for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

2. Also urges all Habitat Agenda partners to participate actively in and support the 2006 Dubai International Conference on the Transfer of Best Practices for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the Medellin International Conference on Best Practice Transfers;

3. Invites all spheres of Government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international financial institutions to increase their support for the activities of the Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme in, among other things, good urban policies and enabling legislation, the transfer of best practices and lessons learned, the publication and dissemination of the Best Practices Magazine and the work of the North-North network;

4. Encourages the Executive Director to examine, in cooperation with Governments, modalities for making resources available in support of the transfer of best practices, good urban policies and enabling legislation;

5. Requests the Executive Director to include a report on the implementation of the present resolution in her progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

Resolution 20/7: Gender equality in human settlements development

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraphs 15, 40 and 46 of the Habitat Agenda[15] emphasizing the provision of legal security of tenure and equal access to land to all people, including women, and the commitment by Governments to the goal of gender equality in human settlements development,

Recalling also paragraph 24 of the Habitat Agenda which, among other things, states that its implementation is the sovereign right and responsibility of each State in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms and taking into account the significance of and the need for full respect for various religious and ethical values,

[15] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling also the Declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session as orally amended[16] and the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[17] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995 and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[18]

Recalling the linkage between the Habitat Agenda, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration, which recognize the importance of land, housing and property to women's livelihoods and draws attention to the important link between women's poverty and homelessness, inadequate housing, and lack of access to economic resources such as credit, land ownership and inheritance,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 59/168 of 20 December 2004, calling on Governments, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to integrate gender perspectives into the implementation of and follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions,

Concerned by the persistence of discriminatory practices, wherever they exist, that limit women's participation in political and administrative decision making and prevent women's ownership of land, housing and other real property in the human settlements context and prevent equality of the work force,

Noting the need to build the capacity of local authorities in gender mainstreaming in local governance, including in municipal planning and management and strengthening linkages between women's organizations, community groups and local authorities, documenting lessons emerging from grassroots women's efforts to cooperate with local authorities and by strengthening women's networks, bearing in mind women's contribution to sustainable human settlements development, the urbanization process, slum upgrading and basic services delivery, especially in the implementation of water and sanitation programmes,

Recognizing the need to incorporate gender perspectives in disaster management policy and practice, from vulnerability reduction to relief, and rehabilitation to development,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on progress made in the implementation of Governing Council resolution 19/16 of 9 May 2003 on women's roles and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading,[19]

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[16] E/CN.6/2005/L.1.

[17] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[18] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[19] HSP/GC/20/2.

Recognizing that women, particularly those living in extreme poverty and suffering from domestic violence, continue to suffer multiple forms of discrimination, among other things, with respect to ownership of property and access to adequate housing;

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[20]

1. Requests Governments and local authorities to involve women in decision-making at all levels of government and to encourage their participation in human settlements development planning, strengthen gender mainstreaming in local governance, including in resource allocation and delivery of basic services including water and sanitation programmes;

2. Encourages Governments and local authorities to adopt appropriate policies and to provide mechanisms and resources for addressing violence and causes of violence against women in human settlements in all its forms and to develop partnerships with relevant organizations;

3. Urges Governments and other partners to recognize and address in a non-discriminatory way, in post-conflict and disaster situations, the special needs, vulnerabilities, priorities and capacities of women;

4. Urges Governments to review and if necessary to revise policies, laws and other practices that are discriminatory against women, especially with regard to property rights and to promote proactive policies in favour of strengthening effective women's rights to land and shelter;

5. Calls upon the Executive Director to ensure that all normative and operational activities developed and implemented by the various divisions, branches and units of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme address gender equality and women's empowerment in human settlements development by incorporating gender impact assessment and gender disaggregated data criteria in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these activities;

6. Requests the Executive Director in cooperation with Habitat Agenda partners to prepare information material and disseminate best practices on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in human settlements development at the local, municipal and national levels;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to include a report on the implementation of the present resolution in her progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

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[20] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

Resolution 20/8: Sustainable development of Arctic cities

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004 on the implementation of decisions of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, from 3 to 14 June 1996,

Recalling also the resolution of the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[21] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[22] as well as the development goals set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[23]

Recalling further the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[24] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002,[25]

Recognizing that one of the main priorities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme is the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the development goals soliciting international cooperation in providing adequate shelter for all and sustainable development of human settlements set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Noting with concern that the development of human settlements of the far north and the Arctic region is impeded by severe climatic conditions coupled with environmental pollution and a decrease in the number of indigenous people and their growing vulnerability,

Acknowledging the special need to provide adequate shelter for the indigenous people of the Arctic region and the need to ensure the sustainable development of human settlements in that region,

Welcoming the fruitful work of the Arctic Council in promoting the cooperation, coordination and joint action of stakeholder countries of the Arctic region, including principles relating to the protection of the environment and the

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21 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

22 General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

23 General Assembly resolution 55/2.

24 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

25 Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

health of the indigenous population and the improvement of the social and economic conditions of Arctic communities,

Taking note of the current establishment of the North-North network aimed at promoting and facilitating city-to-city cooperation between cities located in the Arctic region, with a focus on sustainable urbanization,

1. Requests the Executive Director to assist in raising the awareness of the international community of the sustainable development challenges of the far north and the Arctic region, including those faced by the indigenous people residing in those areas;

2. Invites the Executive Director to consult the United Nations Environment Programme, the Arctic Council, the World Bank, the North-North network and other partners and stakeholders about the sustainable development of cities and other human settlements and the promotion of improved shelter infrastructure in the far north and the Arctic region, as well as about the creation of favourable living conditions for the indigenous people of that area;

3. Requests the Executive Director to compile information on training activities in the far north and Artic region as a basis of further cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and relevant partners;

4. Invites the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

Resolution 20/9: Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Welcoming the adoption of the Mauritius Declaration[26] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[27] which was adopted on 13 January 2005 at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 10 to 14 January 2005,

Recognizing that small island developing States experience specific problems arising from, among other things, their small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems and limited fresh water supply,

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26 *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4), chap. I, annex I.

27 Ibid., annex II.

Noting with concern that the development of human settlements in small island developing States is impeded by annual natural disasters, which routinely destroy the housing stock and other human settlements infrastructure,

Noting the rapid rate of urbanization of small island developing States, which is accompanied by the growth of slums, poverty, and rising insecurity,

Emphasizing the importance of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[28] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

1. Encourages Governments to support the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

2. Requests the Executive Director to assist in raising the awareness of the international community of the challenges related to sustainable human settlements development in small island developing States;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to assist small island developing States in areas relating to disaster preparedness, land registration, urban planning guidelines, hurricane-resistant housing and the development of a training programme for local authorities and community development groups on the administration and sustainable development of cities and other human settlements in small island developing States;

4. Invites the international community to provide financial support for the programmes and projects of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in small island developing States;

5. Requests the Executive Director further to strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes related to small island developing States to ensure the effective implementation of the human settlements elements contained in the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

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[28] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Resolution 20/10: World Urban Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of 16 February 2001, in which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director "to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the coordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, and in particular paragraph 3 of section B, in which the General Assembly decided that the Forum would be a "non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet",

Recalling further paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001, in which the General Assembly encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda[29] partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum[30] in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the second session of the World Urban Forum,

1. Welcomes with appreciation the contributions made by the Government of Spain, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, the Municipality of Barcelona and the Universal Forum of Cultures, in hosting the second session of the World Urban Forum in the city of Barcelona from 13 to 17 September 2004;

2. Welcomes the increased level of participation at the second session of the World Urban Forum of Governments; local authorities; the private sector; cultural, women's, young people's and grassroots groups; and media organizations, leading to the successful outcome of the session;

3. Welcomes with appreciation the invitation by the Government of Canada to host the third session of the World Urban Forum in the city of Vancouver from 19 to 23 June 2006;

4. Reiterates that the World Urban Forum should be as inclusive as possible so as to ensure a fruitful and focused dialogue between Governments from all regions, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners;

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[29] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[30] HSP/GC/20/2/Add.1 and 2.

5. Requests the Executive Director to take into account the deliberations and decisions of the Governing Council at its twentieth session in her preparation of the provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the World Urban Forum;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to provide adequate organizational and substantive support to the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum, in order to maximize opportunities for sharing lessons learned, best practices and good policies in the field of shelter and sustainable urbanization;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to mobilize adequate resources for the preparation and conduct of future sessions of the World Urban Forum, making specific provisions in future proposed programmes of work and budgets;

8. Urges all Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to attend and participate actively in the deliberations of the third session of the World Urban Forum;

9. Invites Governments which are in a position to do so to contribute generously in order to support the travel to and participation in the third session of the World Urban Forum by representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and of Habitat Agenda partners, including representatives of organizations of women, young people and people with disabilities;

10. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the outcome of the third session of the World Urban Forum.

Resolution 20/11: Strengthening the Slum Upgrading Facility of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, which encourages the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective of supporting shelter, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

Recalling also Governing Council resolution 19/11 of 9 May 2003, in which the Council urges the international community, particularly developed countries and others that are in a position to do so, further to extend their financial support to enable the Foundation to become effective in mobilizing domestic resources, both from the private sector and the public sector for shelter and related infrastructure in

developing countries, with special focus on the needs of slum-dwellers and low-income people,

Welcoming the importance attached to slum upgrading in Africa by the Commission for Africa and its recognition that the Slum Upgrading Facility will require financial support from Member States that are in a position to provide such support,

Noting the progress made by the Executive Director in establishing the Slum Upgrading Facility as a three-year pilot project in collaboration with the Cities Alliance,

Confirming that the Slum Upgrading Facility is a technical advisory facility designed to assist national Governments, local governments and community organizations in the development of their own slum upgrading, low cost housing, and urban development projects so that they can attract funding primarily from domestic capital markets, using seed capital grants where necessary and bringing in existing guarantee and credit enhancement facilities, the whole process being packaged in such a way that the projects can be regarded as financially sustainable,

Confirming also that the Slum Upgrading Facility is being developed on a two-stage basis, whereby the first phase is a design phase that will develop a global conceptual framework identifying pilot projects; the second phase, the pilot phase, will implement these pilot projects; and the independent evaluation of the pilot phase will help inform decisions on how to proceed,

1. Invites Governments and others to continue to contribute financially to the Slum Upgrading Facility, capitalizing it to a minimum level of $30 million, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[31] which is the primary objective of the Foundation;

2. Encourages host Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to support the Slum Upgrading Facility by promoting policy and regulatory reforms conducive to the mobilization of domestic capital for slum upgrading and by leveraging public investment and strengthening the capacity of local authorities;

3. Requests the Executive Director to accelerate efforts to implement a cooperation framework between the World Bank Group and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and similar framework agreements with regional development banks, so as to harmonize interventions that support the efforts of States to achieve the internationally agreed development goals on slum-dwellers, safe drinking water and basic sanitation;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress made on the Slum Upgrading

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[31] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Facility, taking into consideration the results of a mid-term assessment of the three-year pilot project and reviewing options for the operationalization of the Facility as a longer-term programme of the Foundation.

Resolution 20/12: Global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001 on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, in which the Assembly expresses its support for the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance as strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration, especially paragraph 13, which emphasizes the significance of good governance for poverty eradication,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in particular, paragraphs 12 and 14, which encourage Governments to support the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and call upon Governments and the Programme to continue to promote partnerships with local authorities, respectively,

Recalling its resolution 19/3 of 9 May 2003 on the global campaigns and, in particular, paragraph 12, requesting the Executive Director to report at its next session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution,

Welcoming the establishment pursuant to Governing Council resolution 19/5 of 9 May 2003 of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions and its commencement of the documentation of unlawful forced evictions in support of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure,

Convinced of the need further to strengthen and expand the two global campaigns in order to realize sustainable, equitable and inclusive development and achieve internationally agreed development goals and the Habitat Agenda,[32]

[32] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II

Taking note of the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the two global campaigns commissioned by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at the request of the Committee of Permanent Representatives,

1. Endorses the conclusion of the evaluation recognizing the centrality of the global campaigns as strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and the need to reflect that centrality in the organizational structure, budget and programme of work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

2. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that the campaigns have a higher global visibility, including through their promotion in global forums and a closer working relationship with the Cities Alliance, the World Bank and other bilateral and multilateral institutions;

3. Fully endorses the recommendation of the evaluation requesting an adequate level of funding of the global campaigns combining earmarked resources with core resources and contributions from other programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

4. Invites Governments in a position to do so to support the campaigns with financial resources;

5. Supports the suggestion to promote the two campaigns simultaneously at the global, national and local levels, with particular attention paid to the global and local dimensions of the campaigns;

6. Requests the Executive Director further to mainstream the principles of the campaigns through the activities and programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to ensure closer linkages with those activities and programmes and cost-effectiveness in resource use;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that the campaigns' activities are periodically documented, that a forward-looking strategic plan is elaborated, that criteria are established for identifying priorities, taking into account opportunities for follow-up on the campaigns' action plans and where the biggest impact can be made and that clear indicators specific to the campaigns' objectives are established to assess their success and impact;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to ensure the continued support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to countries in their individual and collective efforts to combat poverty and achieve the internationally agreed goal on slums of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[33] through improved urban governance and enhanced security of tenure;

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[33] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

9. Encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to mainstream the principles of the campaigns within their human settlements policies and programmes, to view the campaigns principally as a process for political mobilization towards community participation, capacity-building, awareness, advocacy and for giving visibility to the causes of secure tenure and good urban governance, including by supporting the conciliatory approach of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions, and to provide policy and regulatory frameworks which promote security of tenure;

10. Further requests the Executive Director to support the capacity-building of local governments to strengthen and improve the information and databases that they use for planning purposes;

11. Requests the Executive Director to include a reference to the implementation of the present resolution in her overall progress report on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which will be submitted to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

Resolution 20/13: Housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for persons who are vulnerable and disadvantaged

The Governing Council,

Recognizing adequate housing as an important component of the right to an adequate standard of living, as confirmed in paragraph 61 of the Habitat Agenda,[34]

Recognizing also the need to give special attention, in providing access to shelter, to persons with disabilities, single-parent families and especially single mothers, aged persons, orphans and abandoned children, refugees and internally displaced persons, minorities and indigenous people,

Bearing in mind the importance of increasing cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and relevant human rights organizations, specifically in the context of articles 17 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling paragraphs 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 of the Habitat Agenda, which relate to the right of young people, displaced persons, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and aged persons to an adequate standard of living, adequate shelter and full and equal participation in political, social and economic life,

Recalling also paragraph 40 of the Habitat Agenda, which emphasizes the promotion of shelter and basic services and facilities for education and health for

[34] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

homeless or displaced persons, indigenous people, women and children who are survivors of family violence, persons with disabilities and older persons,

Recalling further paragraph 18 of the Habitat Agenda, which relates to open, accountable and effective leadership of local authorities and enabling structures which facilitate independent initiative,

Recalling paragraphs 23, 24 and 26 of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/21 entitled "Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living" of 16 April 2004, and in particular its focus on the conditions of the poor, and also women and children, members of groups requiring special protection, such as persons with disabilities, indigenous people and persons belonging to minorities,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, on standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

Recognizing that poor women, single-parent families and especially single mothers, homeless children, persons with disabilities and persons belonging to other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are particularly severely affected by forced eviction, including, for women, the lack of full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through inheritance, and emphasizing the need to promote policy alternatives to forced eviction through campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance,

Recognizing also the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights joint Housing Rights Programme in the fields of advocacy, research and development, networking, monitoring and evaluation and capacity-building,

Recognizing further the work of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing of the Commission on Human Rights related to the housing rights of people belonging to other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in developing and implementing policies of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to integrate the protection of persons belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups into all activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance;

2. Also requests the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments, to develop or, where they already exist, to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the impact of human settlement policies and programmes on the

lives and work of disadvantaged persons in cities, including those in low-income areas and slums, and for enhancing vulnerable and disadvantaged persons' networks and other organizations active in the area;

3. Encourages Governments to adopt appropriate policies and to create mechanisms and allocate appropriate resources to tackle social problems resulting from lack of adequate shelter, such as gender-based violence, including family violence and discrimination, juvenile delinquency and criminality;

4. Urges Governments to support through their laws and policies access to housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for vulnerable and disadvantaged people, and to take the necessary actions for the practical implementation of those rights;

5. Also urges Governments to seek alternatives to forced evictions, especially in respect of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons, where applicable;

6. Requests Governments and local authorities to strengthen gender mainstreaming in municipal planning and development and also the participation of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in human settlements development programmes, resource allocation and in delivery of basic services;

7. Calls upon Governments to strengthen mechanisms protecting the access of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons to adequate housing;

8. Invites Governments to provide financial support for the implementation of the joint Housing Rights Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

9. Requests the Executive Director to include a report on the implementation of the present resolution in her progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

Resolution 20/14: Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 19/18 of 9 May 2003, entitled "Human settlements development in the occupied Palestinian territories", in which it endorsed the establishment of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of $5 million for an initial period of two years,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People,[35]

1. Welcomes the progress made thus far in the implementation of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People;

2. Expresses its appreciation to those countries which have made contributions to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and to the housing sector;

3. Reiterates its invitation to the international donor community and all financial institutions to support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the immediate mobilization of financial resources towards the full capitalization of the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to enhance the effective implementation of the Programme and to assist the Palestinian National Authority in its construction efforts in the housing sector.

Resolution 20/15: Habitat Programme Managers and regional offices

The Governing Council,

Acknowledging that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme is the lead United Nations agency in all areas of shelter and human settlements development and has responsibilities to promote, facilitate and provide technical cooperation to developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme is a member of the United Nations Development Group, whose principal objective is to strengthen the policy and programme coherence of United Nations development activities,

Recalling its resolution 19/7 of 9 May 2003, which requests the Executive Director, within the framework of a continuous updating of the regionalization strategy and taking into account the current United Nations reform processes, to strengthen the regional presence and cooperation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including by strengthening existing regional offices as necessary and, in consultation with interested Governments and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to study the establishment of new offices in a cost-effective manner and subject to the availability of adequate long-term financial support from concerned regions, countries and cities,

Reaffirming that the complementarity and synergy between its operational and normative functions constitute a major asset and comparative advantage of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

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[35] HSP/GC/20/2/Add.3

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/275 of 20 December 2002, which welcomes the increased cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, and noting with interest the envisaged placement of locally recruited Habitat Programme Managers in selected United Nations Development Programme offices in recipient countries, in consultation with their Governments,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 17 December 2004, which invites the governing bodies of all organizations in the United Nations development system to consider means to strengthen their country-level capacities, to address systematically the funding of their operational activities and to explore additional sources of financial support and alternative funding modalities so as to secure, on a predictable, continuous and sustained basis, the critical mass of resources required to ensure adequate functioning and the pursuit of long-term development objectives,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 59/250 requests programmes and funds to rationalize their country presence through common premises and co-location of members of the United Nations country team,

1. Stresses that all the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at national level, including the work of Habitat Programme Managers, must be aligned with host-country national development strategies and plans, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, and that normative and operational activities should be mutually supported within the framework of and harmonized with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and should respond to national challenges as indicated within the common country assessments, complementing national plans, policies and priorities and supporting the implementation at country level of internationally agreed development goals, global norms and regional initiatives relevant to shelter and sustainable human settlements development;

2. Agrees that the work of Habitat Programme Managers, in consultation with national Governments, taking into account host country priorities, shall mainly focus on:

(a) Promoting the integration of sustainable urbanization into United Nations development assistance frameworks and national development strategies and plans, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

(b) Promoting the global and normative mandate, programmes and campaigns of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(c) Supporting operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at the national and local levels;

3. Acknowledges that Habitat Programme Managers report, under the overall guidance of United Nations resident coordinators, to regional offices while contributing to all normative, advocacy and monitoring activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with other units at headquarters and that they report to the resident coordinator on a regular basis concerning the progress of activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and sustainable urbanization and that they keep the Governments concerned duly informed;

4. Affirms that Habitat Programme Managers should be sustainably funded from a combination of host-country contributions, general-purpose contributions, special-purpose and earmarked contributions, including from global programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director to undertake an independent strategic evaluation of the performance and impact of the Habitat Programme Managers before the end of 2006 and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to comply, in the deployment of Habitat Programme Managers, with the budgetary allocation from the Foundation's general-purpose contributions envisaged for Habitat Programme Managers in the proposed work programme and budget for 2006–2007[36] and to continue the deployment of Habitat Programme Managers as other sources of financing are secured;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to include the issue of the future deployment of Habitat Programme Managers as part of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, to be developed for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, taking into account the evaluation of Habitat Programme Managers;

8. Invites all Governments which are in a position to do so, including host countries, to support the financial viability of the Habitat Programme Manager Network, ideally through multi-year contributions;

9. Also invites Governments to support the regional offices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme financially or through in-kind contributions in order to expand their operational support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

[36] HSP/GC/20/9.

Resolution 20/16: Enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 19/9 of 9 May 2003, by which it decided that one of the two special themes of the twentieth session of the Governing Council would be "Involvement of civil society in improving local governance",

Recalling also the goals, principles, commitments and recommendations of the Habitat Agenda,[37] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[38] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Recalling further paragraphs 25 and 30 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[39] which call for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries, and for greater opportunities to be given to civil society in governance,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004, calling for the empowerment of non-governmental organizations, including women's groups, youth organizations and professional groups, to play a more effective role in the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world,

Recognizing the importance of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance for enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance,

Recognizing also the need for Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to cultivate civic and democratic values such as trust, mutuality of interest, equality, transparency, accountability, a commitment to the rule of law and a respect for human rights, which are foundations of a well-functioning civil society,

1. Calls upon Governments to create the appropriate institutional and legislative conditions for enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance, including the deepening of decentralization to community and neighbourhood levels, as appropriate and practicable, strengthening participatory processes in the local government reforms currently under way in many countries, and building the capacities of women, young people, the urban poor and local authorities to act as partners in accelerating the attainment of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum-dwellers;

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[37] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[38] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

[39] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue compiling lessons learned and best practices from innovative examples enhancing local governance through the involvement of civil society collected or tested by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme or its partners, or discussed at the World Urban Forum, including recommendations for overcoming the challenges encountered in the application of those innovations in human settlements work, and to improve the dissemination and exchange of such information in close collaboration with other parts of the United Nations system, as well as other partners, in particular those with existing networks for the review and dissemination of such information;

3. Also requests the Executive Director, in cooperation with Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners, to develop tool kits and recommendations for local authorities and civil society, with a view to improving access to relevant information, so that they can engage in productive dialogues, making use of experiences and recommendations, in particular from the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance and further to consider modalities for enhancing civic and democratic values, taking into account the laws and culture of each country;

4. Recommends that the promotion of civil society involvement in local decision-making and implementation of programmes be given due consideration in the monitoring activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including those being undertaken jointly with current and potential Habitat Agenda partners;

5. Calls upon the Executive Director to promote civil society involvement in relevant programmes and projects implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

6. Requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other partners, such as national Governments and development partners, to assist in building the capacity of civil society so that it can participate effectively in local governance;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to include a reference to the implementation of the present resolution in her overall progress report on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which will be submitted to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

Resolution 20/17: Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 19/9 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided that one of the special themes of the twentieth session of the Governing Council would be "Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction",

and its resolution 19/7 of the same date recommending that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, should devote specific attention to human settlements needs in the reconstruction of countries and territories affected by armed conflicts or by other human-made or natural disasters,

Noting with appreciation the partnerships established by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with various disaster management and humanitarian institutions for the development and implementation of vulnerability reduction and sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, in particular the memorandums of understanding concluded between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting the initiative of the Executive Director to strengthen relations with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, through supporting its Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division,

Welcoming the invitation by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator for the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to participate in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs in view of the important role of shelter in humanitarian operations and reconstruction programmes,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004, which requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within its mandate, to continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development and encouraged the Programme to continue to work closely with the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other relevant agencies in the United Nations system in that area,

1. Notes the guiding principles contained in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the theme paper entitled "Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction",[40] which were reviewed and discussed at the second World Urban Forum, held in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2004;

2. Encourages Governments to disseminate and share their expertise and experience in tsunami and other natural-disaster mitigation measures, including hazard mapping, early-warning systems and appropriate design standards;

3. Requests the Executive Director to mainstream prospects for risk reduction and limiting the after-effects of disasters and to elaborate the guiding

[40] HSP/GC/20/5.

principles contained in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the theme paper on post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction and, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, to develop a strategic policy for the role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in addressing the sustainable human settlements aspects of human-made and natural disaster management, which should focus on the Programme's areas of comparative advantage, for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives before the end of 2005;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to mobilize the necessary financial resources to implement the strategic policy in order to facilitate disaster prevention and mitigation and post-crisis reconstruction by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in support of human settlements;

5. Invites Governments in a position to do so to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to support activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme promoting sustainable human settlements development in emergencies and post-disaster situations.

Resolution 20/18: Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the importance of decentralization policies in achieving sustainable human settlements development in line with the Habitat Agenda[41] and the internationally agreed development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[42]

Recalling its resolution 19/12 of 9 May 2003, by which it requested the Executive Director to take further steps and measures to intensify dialogue on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, with the aim of developing recommendations to be presented at the twentieth session of the Governing Council and documenting best practices,

Recalling also paragraph 180 of the Habitat Agenda, which recommends that Governments should "examine and adopt, as appropriate, policies and legal frameworks from other States that are implementing decentralization effectively",

Recalling further its resolution 18/11 of 16 February 2001, by which it mandated the Executive Director to intensify dialogue among Governments at all levels and Habitat partners, on all issues related to effective decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities, including, as appropriate, legal frameworks, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

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41 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

42 General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Welcoming the establishment by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization, which advises the Executive Director on the dialogue on decentralization, in accordance with resolution 19/12, and on the implementation of decentralization policies at the country level and the documentation of best practices,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by many countries around the world in engaging in decentralization reforms to create an environment that is conducive to improved urban governance and participatory democracy,

Welcoming the growing commitment of local authorities to effective decentralization and improved local governance, as reflected in, among other documents, the final declaration of the Founding Congress of United Cities and Local Governments, held in May 2004,

Convinced that effective decentralization can contribute to strengthening gender equality, promoting women's empowerment in human settlements, and providing new opportunities for employment for young people and social inclusion,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of resolution 19/12, entitled "Recommendations on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities",[43]

1. Commends the Executive Director on her leadership in making cooperation with local authorities, as close partners of Governments in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the internationally agreed development goals, a priority of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's work and encourages her to continue the international dialogue on decentralization at the third session of the World Urban Forum and other relevant forums;

2. Welcomes the creation by local authorities and their associations of United Cities and Local Governments and the strengthening by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and its partners of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, as positive trends towards enabling local authorities to contribute to relevant international dialogues;

3. Takes note with appreciation of the draft guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities prepared by the members of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization in collaboration with the secretariat, as requested in resolutions 18/11 and 19/12;

4. Invites Governments to provide their comments on the draft guidelines to the secretariat before the end of 2005, and to document cases of best practices for incorporation in the compendium of best practices requested in resolution 19/12;

[43] HSP/GC/20/7.

5. Requests the Executive Director to take these comments into account and to revise and finalize the guidelines during 2006, with the support of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and to submit the guidelines to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-first session;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to continue supporting the programme of work of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and recommends that the Advisory Group should also assist the Executive Director in advising those countries that may wish to implement elements from the draft guidelines;

7. Further requests the Executive Director, building on the experience of the Global Urban Observatory, to assist United Cities and Local Governments, with the participation of Governments and local authorities, to develop the concept of a global observatory that would assess, monitor and evaluate the state of decentralization and accountability to people at the local level and local governance in the world, as important conditions for achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda;

8. Invites Governments in a position to do so to provide the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the financial contributions necessary to ensure a successful dialogue on decentralization, the development of the observatory concept mentioned in paragraph 7, and to support the work of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization.

Resolution 20/19: Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the 2006–2007 biennium

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[44] the Habitat Agenda,[45] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[46] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[47] which emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable urbanization and adequate shelter for all, including the need to improve the lives of slum dwellers,

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[44] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[45] Ibid., annex II.

[46] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[47] General Assembly resolution S-25/2.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, which, among other things, designated the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as the focal point for human settlements and for the coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind the commitments made by Governments in the Millennium Declaration and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015 and to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, in which the General Assembly called for the strengthening of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation with the active participation and collaboration of organizations within and outside the United Nations system,

Welcoming the increase in financial support provided to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation during 2004,

Bearing in mind the request of the Governing Council in its resolution 19/2 of 9 May 2003 that the Executive Director should submit to the Governing Council at its twentieth session the budget and work programme for the biennium 2006–2007 in a prioritized and integrated document, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report dated 13 March 2003,

Recalling its resolution 19/7 of 9 May 2003 requesting the Executive Director to strengthen the regional presence and cooperation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services recommendation that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should sharpen its focus on critical areas within its mandate,

Having considered the proposed biennial, integrated work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the 2006–2007 biennium and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. Confirms that the work programme for 2006–2007 reflects the structure and orientation of the Strategic Framework for the period 2006–2007;

2. Approves the draft integrated work programme and budget for the 2006–2007 biennium as set forth in the proposed work programme and budget for 2006–2007;[48]

[48] HSP/GC/20/9

3. Also approves the general-purpose budget of $27,601,000 and endorses the special-purpose budget of $55,148,000 for the 2006–2007 biennium as outlined in the proposed work programme and budget for 2006–2007;

4. Authorizes the Executive Director, in the event of a shortfall or a surplus in income, to adjust the level of allocations for programme activities to bring it into line with the actual level of income;

5. Also authorizes the Executive Director to reallocate general-purpose resources between subprogrammes up to a maximum of 25 per cent of the total general-purpose budget;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report all reallocations and adjustments to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in her quarterly financial reports;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to develop an overarching resource-mobilization strategy for presentation to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including options adopted by other United Nations bodies for broadening the donor base and, in particular, encouraging non-earmarked contributions;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to work with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to explore modalities to enable the participation in Governing Council sessions of one representative from each developing country and country with its economy in transition which is a member of the Governing Council, on request;

9. Notes with concern the comparatively low level of non-earmarked contributions, which is leading to a continuing imbalance between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions, and the narrow donor base for non-earmarked contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

10. Invites Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to increase their contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, giving priority to non-earmarked resources and preferably to multi-year funding agreements, and to support the Executive Director in her efforts to broaden the donor base of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

11. Requests the Executive Director to continue ensuring that earmarked contributions to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including special-purpose contributions to the Foundation and contributions to trust funds, are used to fund activities which are included in the programme of work;

12. Also requests the Executive Director to report periodically to Governments, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on progress made on the implementation of the work programme and budget for the 2006–2007 biennium;

13. Further requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to develop a six-year medium-term strategic and institutional plan, including clear implications for the organizational structure, financial and human resources of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including at the global, regional and country levels, taking into account wider United Nations reform processes, for submission to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

14. Calls upon the Executive Director to ensure timely and detailed consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of both a prioritized strategic framework for 2008–2009 and a prioritized, results-based and integrated work programme and budget for the 2008–2009 biennium aligned to the medium-term strategic and institutional plan;

15. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that the work programme and budget document provides, in addition to details of Foundation resources, an overview of all funding sources for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and its various activities, and ensures allocations to the various areas of work in a concise and clear manner;

16. Recognizes the important role of the in-country personnel and regional offices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in providing operational support to developing countries, and in that connection invites Governments to strengthen and support financially the Habitat Programme Managers at the country level and the regional offices in order to expand operational support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

17. Encourages Governments to support the monitoring and normative functions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at the global and regional level;

18. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to invite the Office of Internal Oversight Services to undertake a review of the current administrative arrangements at the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its relationship with the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to enable it to function more effectively and more efficiently as a full United Nations programme, and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

19. Notes that an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the 2006–2007 biennium would decrease the funding requirement from the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, thereby releasing resources which should be reallocated to the programme activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

20. Calls for the allocation of an appropriate share of the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

Resolution 20/20: Thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[49] and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, to reduce by half, by the year 2015, the proportion of people unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation and to have significantly improved the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/275 of 20 December 2002 requesting the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support developing countries in implementing those targets in order to increase access to clean water, sanitation and adequate shelter, and to further support the implementation of the Water for African Cities Programme, as requested by the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling further the commitments and recommendations of the Habitat Agenda[50] on the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[51] adopted by the General Assembly in June 2001,

Welcoming the importance given to the issues of water, sanitation and human settlements as the thematic cluster of the first implementation cycle, 2004–2005, of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

Taking into account the themes of the second implementation cycle, 2006–2007, of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which are energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change,

Taking into account also that human settlements globally are large consumers of energy and producers of emissions,

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[49] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[50] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[51] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

Recalling its resolution 19/6 of 9 May 2003 on water and sanitation in cities,

Welcoming the support provided so far to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund,

Taking note of the Chair's summary of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[52] which clearly underscored that achieving the internationally agreed goals on water, sanitation and human settlements and achieving the poverty eradication target are inextricably linked and play a crucial role in sustaining economic growth, social development and environmental protection,

Noting with satisfaction that the outcomes of the second World Urban Forum have been taken into account in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on human settlements for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;[53]

1. Encourages Governments at all levels to pursue actively the integration of the three themes of water, sanitation and human settlements at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development as human settlements provide a concrete context for policy actions which can help translate global goals and policies into operational reality;

2. Also encourages Governments, where relevant, to prioritize urban water, sanitation and human settlements policy actions in national development programmes and policies, poverty reduction strategy papers and other policy documents;

3. Recommends that a Chair's summary be prepared on the outcome of the discussions of the issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements at the twentieth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session;

4. Encourages the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to contribute to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development relevant case studies on good urban governance for inclusion in the "Examples" column of the Chair's summary of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development; also, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should continue to encourage the registration of human-settlements-related partnerships in the partnership database of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

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[52] E/2004/29-E/CN.17/2004/21

[53] HSP/GC/20/2/Add.1

5. Recommends that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should be the focal point for following up and monitoring the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development pertaining to human settlements and in that context should provide practical and effective policy options, as requested by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session;

6. Invites the Executive Director to consider including the topic of interrelations between human settlements, energy and sustainable development in the agenda of the third World Urban Forum;

7. Requests the Executive Director, in the event that those topics are addressed at the third World Urban Forum, to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and in collaboration with Habitat Agenda partners and relevant United Nations organizations, a report on energy consumption in human settlements, including specific examples of differing policy approaches, describing how energy consumption and air pollution have been reduced, to be presented to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-first session and to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session;

8. Invites Governments which are in a position to do so to support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in its activities in following up the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development with financial resources primarily routed through the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

9. Also invites all Habitat Agenda partners to support and make full use of the activities and programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the implementation of the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

10. Requests the Executive Director to inform Governments, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on the relevant outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to include a reference to the implementation of the present resolution in her overall progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

Resolution 20/21: Organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 5/15 of 7 May 1982, in which it decided to designate the subjects of the special themes of its sessions two years in advance,

Also recalling its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, in which it decided to provide, at future sessions of the Council, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments,

Further recalling its resolution 19/5 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided that a continuing focus of its twentieth and future sessions should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[54] on improving the lives of slum-dwellers,

Noting that the World Urban Forum now provides an opportunity for extensive dialogue among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners,

Recognizing the importance during sessions of the Governing Council of a focused, interactive high-level segment on priority policy issues,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on improving preparations for the Governing Council, which are contained in the appendix to the present resolution,

2. Decides that the special themes referred to in resolution 5/15 shall no longer be chosen two years in advance, but shall instead be selected by the Bureau of the Governing Council at least six months before the start of each session of the Governing Council, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and the requirement for a continuing focus on the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers;

3. Also decides that the high-level segment and the dialogues referred to in its resolution 16/12 should normally focus on those special themes and should constitute the substantive debate on the special themes;

4. Requests the Committee of Permanent Representatives to recommend to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, through the Bureau of the Governing Council, further proposals for improving the structure and organizational arrangements of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council including, in particular, the high-level segment;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare a background paper for use by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in complying with the request set forth in the preceding paragraph.

[54] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Appendix

Recommendations for improving the preparations for future sessions of the Governing Council

I. Preparatory phase of the Governing Council

A. Organization of the work of Committee of Permanent Representatives working groups

1. The organization of the meetings of Committee of Permanent Representatives working groups should be improved by preparing a schedule of meetings in advance, distributing clear agendas which identify the documents to be discussed under each item and ensuring that all relevant documentation is circulated two weeks in advance in both hard-copy and electronic form.

2. The agendas of the meetings of the working groups should be short and streamlined.

1. Preparation of draft resolutions and decisions

3. The proposal for the provisional agenda, date and, where appropriate, venue for future special and regular sessions of the Governing Council should be prepared and finalized as far in advance as possible and in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. If supplementary items are proposed for inclusion in the agenda, they should be submitted and considered as early as possible before the session of the Governing Council in question.

4. A comprehensive list of all possible draft resolutions and decisions to be submitted by the secretariat should be circulated to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at least four months in advance of the Governing Council session, with an explanation of why each is needed. As a rule, draft resolutions and decisions should not be submitted unless there is an identified need.

5. States wishing to submit draft resolutions and decisions should be encouraged to do so well in advance of each session of the Governing Council.

6. Draft resolutions and decisions should be clustered by subject and content.

2. Documentation

7. Documentation should be prepared early and a quality check should be carried out before documents are submitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

8. The number and size of working, information and background documents should be limited. All documentation on a particular topic should be grouped together.

9. Final documentation should be circulated as early as possible.

B. Preparation of the work programme and budget

10. Provision should be made for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to give the proposed work programme and budget timely and detailed consideration.

11. At least six weeks in advance of the first discussions of the proposed work programme and budget, the secretariat should distribute it to the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Working Group on Finance, Budget and Administrative Matters should hold comprehensive discussions on the proposed work programme and budget, in cooperation with the secretariat, and make recommendations to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

12. The proposed work programme and budget and each subprogramme thereof should be prioritized and annotated to show clearly how each element flows from existing mandates. The draft work programme and budget should clearly identify items which depend on the adoption of decisions by the Governing Council.

13. The broad outlines of the proposed work programme and budget and its underlying mandates should be presented for discussion to the relevant working group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives before the full proposed work programme and budget are drafted.

II. Conduct of sessions of the Governing Council

A. Structure of sessions of the Governing Council

14. Consultations should be started as early as possible on the structure of each session of the Governing Council.

15. The dialogues should focus on the two special themes for the Governing Council and should constitute the main substantive debate on those special themes.

16. Priority items should be placed on the Governing Council agenda for consideration early in the session.

17. The selection of themes for each session should take into account relevant emerging issues and the outcomes of intergovernmental meetings relevant to the work of UN-Habitat. In that connection, General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, should be taken into account.

18. Multi-year mandates should be considered so that certain items need not be on the agenda of each session of the Governing Council. Items with multi-year mandates should be kept under review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

19. A working group to consider the work programme and the budget should be established at the beginning of the Governing Council session to give the working group sufficient time to consider the work programme and budget carefully.

B. Conduct of sessions of the Governing Council

20. The number of parallel and social events should be kept to a manageable level.

21. In accordance with the established practice, an alphabetical seating pattern should be followed at all sessions of the Governing Council.

22. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, should establish a structure for the theme-related dialogues well in advance of the Governing Council for submission to the Bureau of the Governing Council.

23. Ministers should be encouraged to participate in the theme-related dialogues. The discussions during and the outcome of those dialogues should be taken into consideration in the negotiations on related draft resolutions.

24. Participants in the theme-related dialogues should be encouraged to engage in interactive dialogue. Written statements, although acceptable, should not replace open dialogue.

25. Each theme-related dialogue should have a moderator or facilitator and one resource person to encourage interactive debate.

26. If the Governing Council, after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Bureau and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, establishes subsidiary organs, subcommittees or working groups, meetings of the Committee of the Whole and those of the plenary should not be held simultaneously, to the extent possible.

27. To enhance accessibility, the possibility should be considered of showing the proceedings on a television monitor outside the meeting room.

28. The establishment of working and contact groups and their schedules and venues, and of regional group meetings, should be clearly announced in both plenary meetings and meetings of the Committee of the Whole. The information should also be posted on a prominent announcement board.

Annex II

Message from the Secretary-General

It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twentieth session. I would also like to express my gratitude to President Kibaki, and to the Government and people of Kenya, for their commitment to the United Nations as hosts to UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme since the 1970s.

In the months ahead, United Nations Member States will be reviewing progress in implementing the Millennium Declaration, an effort that will culminate in a summit in New York in September. To help them in this endeavour, I have just issued a report, entitled "In Larger Freedom", which sets out what I believe to be the key decisions that are needed in the areas of security, development and human rights, and on adapting the United Nations as well.

This Governing Council will play a crucial role on an important part of that agenda: keeping the promise that world leaders have made to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020.

Today, more people live in urban areas than ever before. And nearly 30 per cent of that population – 1 billion – are slum dwellers. Cities hold great potential as engines of growth and social development. Yet they are also bastions of inequality – in terms of health and living conditions, employment opportunities and the crime and insecurity that people routinely face.

UN-Habitat remains at the frontline of these issues, helping governments to manage the complex problems of urbanization. That work also includes reconstruction in the aftermath of conflict and disaster, since many of the estimated 25 million people in 52 countries who have been displaced within their own borders end up in already overburdened towns and cities of the developing world.

As you set the work programme and budget for the 2006–2007 biennium, I urge you to do your part to strengthen the capacity of local authorities, and to involve civil society in policy-making and implementation. I hope you will also see the wisdom in strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, which can contribute to our struggle against urban poverty.

Your decisions can help world leaders rise to the challenges confronting the world's cities. Please accept my best wishes for the success of your important deliberations.

Annex III

Summaries of opening statements

A. Statement by Mr. Paul Okwaro, President of the United Nations Nairobi Staff Union

1. After welcoming the attendance at the meeting of Mr. Kibaki, the President of Kenya, Mr. Okwaro said that the staff working at the United Nations Office at Nairobi took immense pride in contributing to efforts to overcome global and local challenges relating to the environment and human settlements and showed dedication and cooperation in their efforts to realize the noble goals of the United Nations. Efforts to pursue those goals were enhanced by the diversity of skills, nationalities and cultures among the staff. Acknowledging the support that staff had received from their management, he commended in particular the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for her dynamism and for having brought UN Habitat to a new and coveted position among United Nations agencies.

B. Statement by Ms. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Laureate

2. In her statement, Ms. Maathai emphasized the need for a clean and healthy urban environment, warning that the damage inflicted on the rural environment was accelerating the rural-urban exodus, particularly in Africa, thus leading to the proliferation of squatter and slum settlements. At the same time, the expanding footprint of urban centres, much of which was destructive, generated and compounded the depletion of the vegetative cover, fostered irreversible pollution, reduced the productivity of the land and inflicted serious damage on natural resources. She noted that, if no urgent steps were taken, more than half of the world's population would have settled in urban areas within the next two decades and the majority of the urban population would continue living in slums under extreme environmental stress and without dignity.

3. The negative consequences of rapid urbanization, including impacts on the environment and the survival of humanity, about which concerns were often raised, were not due simply to population growth; the challenge that lay before UN-Habitat was to identify how people obtained their livelihoods, how their shelter was secured, how their energy was obtained or how the waste they generated was disposed. It had a responsibility to initiate measures and steer humanity towards action-oriented solutions to the challenges which it was facing relating to the built environment. The Governing Council was entrusted with that responsibility, as part of a broader mission to ensure the sustenance and development of humanity. Bold steps were needed to confront the looming urbanization crisis. The world had heard the wake-up calls of recent decades, when natural disasters had killed and maimed hundreds of thousands of people, when the theatres of war had shifted to human settlements and when poverty was increasingly becoming urban and highly feminized. Communities that had lived together in harmony for decades had been blighted by xenophobia, discrimination and insecurity. UN-Habitat, as a programme, as an institution and, more importantly, as a collective vision of humanity, must rise to the occasion.

4. After outlining some practical steps that could be taken to improve the living conditions of the poor in urban areas, including the planting of trees in slums by slum dwellers, she urged all Governments to promote the "3R" concept of reduce, reuse and recycle, noting, in conclusion, that she would like to add a fourth "R": repair.

C. Statement by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

5. Mr. Topfer welcomed participants to Nairobi in his capacity as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and congratulated Ms. Tibaijuka on her nomination to the Blair Commission for Africa and Ms. Wangari Maathai on winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

6. He noted with satisfaction that UNEP and UN-Habitat continued to work in partnership in many areas, key among which were sustainable urban development and water and sanitation. The two programmes were working together in the Sustainable Cities and Localizing Agenda 21 Programmes and in the Cities Alliance. They were also working together in Africa and Asia to develop environmental assessments in cities. In the context of Africa, he cited their partnership to improve the Nairobi river basin. In Asia, they were working to alleviate the suffering of the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.

7. Noting that cities were engines of sustainable development, he emphasized the need to put people at the centre of development agendas. On an environmental note, he observed that urbanization was placing pressure not only on the local, but also on the global environments. An urbanization which put energy efficiency at its centre stood a better chance of avoiding the many problems which urbanization could entail, including climate change. The demand for natural resources from cities reached beyond their borders with the fate of land, air and waters of rural areas resting partially on urban management. Intact ecosystems and new solutions for waste management, such as the lifecycle approach, were needed to achieve sustainable development.

8. Because of the proliferation of slums, Africa was a scar on the conscience of the world. People did not go to cities expecting that they would live in slums, but rather to search for a better life. High unemployment rates had led to desperation among young people, and ways must be sought to tackle the problem. It was essential to involve the affected communities, and especially women, in city planning. Ultimately, the battle to achieve the Millennium Development Goals would be lost or won in the urban environment.

D. Statement by Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya

9. In his statement, Mr. Kibaki welcomed participants to the session and, recalling the widespread devastation caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004, conveyed his condolences to all those affected. Although such disasters undermined efforts to provide sustainable human settlements, they could be turned into opportunities

for development. It was therefore gratifying to note that one of the special themes of the current session of the Governing Council was post-conflict and disaster mitigation. He expressed the hope that the outcome of the deliberations would contribute towards reducing the impact of disasters, particularly in developing countries.

10. Meeting the Millennium Development Goal targets on water, sanitation and slum dwellers by 2020 was a daunting challenge for developing countries such as Kenya, where the vast majority of the population lived in abject poverty. By 2020, most of the world's population would be living in urban areas, leading to what had been termed the "urbanization of poverty". Proactive policies and programmes, coupled with good governance, were essential to avert the growth of slums. Development partners should meet their long-standing commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their GNP for official development assistance and the international community should implement debt relief, debt swaps and debt cancellation programmes to provide the means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

11. Pursuant to a memorandum of understanding on slum upgrading, signed in January 2003 between the Government of Kenya and UN-Habitat, a slum upgrading and low-cost housing and infrastructure fund had been established, from which activities in that area would be financed. He urged the donor community to contribute to the UN-Habitat Slum Upgrading Facility, noting that, without financial assistance, the targets and goals set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration could not be met.

Annex IV

Policy statement by the Executive Director

1. Ms. Tibaijuka expressed gratitude to the President, Mr. Kibaki, and to the people of Kenya for hosting the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Relations between the Government of Kenya and UN-Habitat continued to develop both to the advantage of the global operations of UN-Habitat and to the benefit of the people of Kenya. The personal support of the President for the work of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, particularly the partnership between UN-Habitat and the Government of Kenya in upgrading all slums in Kenya, confirmed his commitment to sustainable urban development.

2. She pointed out that, as human habitats, the vast urban slums of the day were not vastly different from those which had grown out of the industrial revolution; the difference was one of scale, as some slums now constituted whole cities. Another difference was the growing hopelessness, as most slum dwellers had resigned themselves to spending a lifetime living in dehumanizing squalor. There were already 1 billion people living in slums and, without more effective intervention, the total slum population was likely to triple by 2050. The central dilemma facing the international community was its continuing failure to come to grips with the world's slums. Despite the good efforts made to improve them, slums continued to expand and multiply around the world. The international community was, regrettably, not keeping its promise to deliver cities without slums, a goal of the Millennium Declaration.

3. Slums, she stressed, were not an abstract concept. They existed in cities where there was insufficient water or sanitation, insecure land tenure and lack of protection against the forces of nature, lack of security, and the presence of conditions which bred disease. As slums usually lacked official recognition by the municipal authorities, slum dwellers often did not have access to urban services. They were places where, among other things, people lived on less than a dollar a day, where most children suffered from hunger, where child mortality was abnormally high, and where women and children suffered disproportionately and carried the greatest burdens. In short, slums were a toxic mixture of every one of the problems identified in the Millennium Declaration.

4. Recalling that the prime Millennium Development Goal target for which UN-Habitat was responsible was target 11 on slums, she stressed her view that that target was far too modest, given the extent of the slum problem, and should be reconsidered by the General Assembly. Target 10 – halving the number of persons without access to water and sanitation – was no less important. Human health depended on the supply of potable water and, particularly in cities, the management of sewage and solid waste. Consequently, a large part of the work programme of UN-

Habitat was centred on water and sanitation, particularly their provision in the towns and cities of Africa and Asia.

5. In conclusion, she said that, at its thirteenth session, the Commission on Sustainable Development would again be considering water, sanitation and human settlements, areas of high priority and responsibility for UN-Habitat. Accordingly, she called on the Governing Council to recommend to the Commission at its thirteenth session that UN-Habitat should be intimately involved in the follow-up to the recommendations adopted at that session.

Annex V

Summary by the President of the Governing Council of the high-level segment of the twentieth session

A. Introduction

1. The high-level segment of the twentieth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme comprised four plenary meetings, held on 4 and 5 April 2005. Discussions focused on the following issues: activities of UN-Habitat: progress report of the Executive Director (agenda item 4); implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers (agenda item 6); work programme of UN-Habitat for the 2006–2007 biennium and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the 2006–2007 biennium (agenda item 9); and coordination matters: cooperation between UN-Habitat and UNEP; cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non governmental organizations; and matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Governing Council (agenda item 10).

B. General debate on agenda items 4, 6, 9 and 10

2. Following the introduction of item 4 by the Executive Director, the high-level segment proceeded to a general debate on items 4, 6, 9 and 10.

3. In their debate, representatives described the efforts which their countries were making to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals that fell within the purview of UN–Habitat, and several described the beneficial effects of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Urban Governance in their countries. Several representatives stressed the need for a commitment by the international community as a whole if the Millennium Development Goals were to be achieved. Partnerships were viewed by several representatives as crucial to the achievement of the Goals. One representative detailed the significant sums which his country had disbursed for the achievement of the Goals since the nineteenth session of the Governing Council and more recently in the context of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, and expressed his country's expectation that the Millennium Development Goals would be met.

4. One representative, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, pointed out, however, that, although all its tasks were both large in scale and urgent, the financial base of UN-Habitat was among the thinnest in the United Nations system, leaving it little flexibility in meeting the ever-growing needs of slum dwellers in developing countries. It should have the same financial base as other United Nations agencies. In addition, the financial situation of its regional offices was particularly precarious. He noted that the

introduction of a voluntary indicative scale of contributions would be a step in the right direction and expressed the hope that it would increase the donor base. Another representative advocated stimulating voluntary contributions and support from the private sector through competition.

5. There was significant support for the memorandum of understanding signed by UNDP and UN-Habitat in October 2002 on establishing posts for Habitat Programme Managers, which was viewed as being in line with the United Nations policy of inter-agency cooperation at the country level and as enhancing programme implementation, particularly in developing countries. In that context, one representative emphasized the need for reports on the activities of Habitat Programme Managers so that their impact could be properly assessed. With reference to cooperation in general, many representatives called for greater cooperation between public and private sectors and civil society.

6. One representative recommended that international cooperation between all Habitat partners should be expanded and diversified and that the various roles and responsibilities of partners at the regional and country levels should be clarified. In his view, there were continuing problems in some regions which were not adequately reflected in the UN-Habitat work programme.

7. Describing the problems that their countries faced in the area of human settlements, representatives of African countries in particular and developing countries in general mentioned rapid urbanization, which placed pressure on the infrastructure and basic social amenities, resulting from rural-urban migration, population growth and informal settlements, and detailed efforts to set up alternative poles of development and to construct new settlements to try to slow the influx into the major urban centres and projects to survey land and provide services to surveyed plots in order to prevent the establishment of new informal settlements and to regularize existing ones. In that connection, one representative stressed the need for indicators for shanty towns, and another pointed out that, once tenure was regularized, a previously informal dwelling could become collateral for a mortgage, and provide not only secure tenure but also all the concomitant economic benefits of access to credit. Representatives of two major donors to the Slum Upgrading Facility noted that the initiative would strengthen local and national finance markets to benefit the urban poor and would also provide technical assistance for slum upgrading.

8. Significant support was also expressed for capacity-building in developing countries to assist them in developing technical tools and products for mobilizing local resources for slum upgrading and to provide guarantee mechanisms to enable the poor and marginalized to gain access to housing loans. Indeed, affordability of housing was generally accepted as a key concern; widespread poverty itself was cited as a major challenge.

9. In the context of service provision, there was general support for the notion that human settlements questions could not be considered in isolation from problems of water and sanitation, including the management of municipal and other wastes. In addition, the

representative of one developing country described a reversal in policy: whereas previously the emphasis had been on rural development, with the result that in the major cities housing had become dilapidated and overcrowded, the emphasis had now been placed on urban development, including the development of smaller settlements, in keeping with the Habitat Agenda. The representative of another developing country described efforts to concentrate the rural population into settlements where services could be provided, rather than in isolated dwellings.

10. Several representatives cited HIV/AIDS as a serious brake on achieving improvements in human settlements, although one representative reported an encouraging drop in seropositivity rates in his country between 2001 and 2004. In addition, gender issues were described as crucial by several representatives, with one representative adding that more effort must be made to involve not only women but children and the disabled in development and programmatic activities. One representative expressed the view that women's right to inherit and own property had important welfare effects in that it guarded against domestic violence and reduced the incidence of illness among children, while another representative noted that the safety of women in the community was also an issue. There was general agreement, however, that there was no one solution to safeguarding women's property rights as circumstances varied from country to country.

11. On the subject of the World Urban Forum in 2006, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, a representative of the host country noted that Vancouver was renowned for the high standard of its amenities, particularly for the disabled. The Forum in 2006 would provide an opportunity for participants to become acquainted first hand with many best practices.

12. Among the many representatives who expressed their sadness at the death of Pope John Paul II on 2 April 2005, one observed that the late Pope had expressed the belief that adequate shelter was a necessity for ensuring human dignity.

13. Many representatives described their countries' efforts to achieve decentralization with a view to improving local governance, ensuring participation and improving service delivery. One representative described his country's programme of moving government departments and functions out of the capital city, coupled with the construction of settlements elsewhere, as a way of relieving the pressure on the capital, spreading development more evenly and creating employment. Another representative said that, whereas the role of local governments in poverty reduction and service provision was increasingly being recognized, the technical capacities must be strengthened if they were to fulfil all their obligations in that regard. On the regional scale, the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was seen as a vehicle for meeting regional housing and urban development challenges. One representative invoked the principle of subsidiarity: decision-making and responsibilities should lie as close to the grass roots as possible.

14. All representatives who mentioned the matter agreed that the goal of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2015 was too modest. In that connection, one

representative described his country's plan to resettle all people currently living in dilapidated and emergency housing, some 3.4 per cent of the total population or 5 million people, by 2010. Another representative announced that in his country, a small island developing State, the Government had set the ambitious target of providing decent housing for all by 2008, and in that connection noted that housing construction would provide gainful employment and boost the economy.

15. One representative expressed his Government's gratitude for the efforts of UN-Habitat to provide assistance and expertise in improving living conditions and assessing the infrastructure needs of his country, which had recently emerged from a war. He expressed the hope that, with that input, a potentially catastrophic housing situation could be averted. In that connection, he warned that bad housing was a breeding ground for unrest and terrorism.

16. The representative of a West African country expressed gratitude to UN-Habitat for its assistance in delivering shelter and helping resettling nearly one million internally displaced persons and refugees in his country; the major challenge after years of civil war was rebuilding the damaged infrastructure. Others also mentioned the consequences of war and refugee movements for human settlements.

17. One representative pointed out that, among their other environmental impacts, cities were the principal sources of carbon dioxide emissions and she expressed the view that the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change required a fresh look at the way all cities everywhere were constructed. She suggested that a truly global approach to the city was the only way in which living conditions for all people and the operation of national economies could be improved and environmental resources could be conserved and protected. In that connection, she stressed that interlinkages between cities, their surrounding areas and hinterlands must be taken into consideration.

18. The representative of an international youth organization reminded the Governing Council that 50 per cent of the world's population was under 25 and expressed the hope that the current session would involve young people and provide them with an opportunity to become partners in development.

Annex VI

Summary by the President of the Governing Council of issues to be considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session

1. The thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will take place in New York from 11 to 22 April 2005, will focus on the three themes of water, sanitation and human settlements that are of critical significance to the work programme of UN-Habitat. In his presentation to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twentieth session, held from 4 to 8 April 2005, the Chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session requested the Governing Council at that session to highlight important policies and action areas for consideration by the Commission at its thirteenth session. A summary of the Governing Council's discussion relevant to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development is presented below.

A. General principles

2. Some general principles should define the overall framework for practical measures and policy options to be put forward by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session. These are:

(a) Adopting an integrated approach in planning;

(b) Including sustainable development and the priorities identified by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session in national processes;

(c) Promoting multi-level and multi-actor governance, including decentralization to the lowest appropriate level;

(d) Ensuring national ownership and responsibility in planning for programmes and actions;

(e) Integrating all cross-cutting issues, including poverty reduction;

(f) Promoting the pro-poor approach, by prioritizing policies and actions which improve access to basic services for all in both rural areas and urban areas, with particular emphasis on Africa;

(g) Coherently addressing the differences and interlinkages between urban and rural areas;

(h) Ensuring the long-term viability of actions and projects through increased investments.

B. Sustainable urbanization

3. Today, more people live in urban areas than ever before, with nearly 30 per cent of the world's urban population, i.e., 1 billion people, being slum dwellers living in the

most life-threatening conditions. While human settlements hold great potential as engines of growth and social development, they are also places where stark inequalities persist. Many countries are not on track in meeting the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals, and with rapid urbanization, the need to meet these goals in the urban areas of developing countries is of paramount importance.

C. Recognizing the urban context

4. If the urban context of poverty is not directly tackled, it will be impossible to achieve sustainable development and meet the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals. Urban poverty reduction, in the context of slum upgrading, namely, shelter improvement and also the provision of water and sanitation services to the urban poor, should constitute an essential component of national plans, towns and city development strategies and poverty reduction strategy papers.

D. Integration of the themes of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development at the human settlements level

5. Shelter and human settlements provide a specific context for action. The struggle to attain the internationally agreed targets on water and sanitation will have to be waged in human settlements – in cities, towns and villages, where water is consumed and waste is generated. It is at the level of human settlements, particularly in slums, that actions will be needed to implement the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals on water, sanitation and human settlements. An integrated approach to meeting the water, sanitation and slums targets needs to be adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session.

E. Slums target

6. The internationally agreed target on slums, namely: "By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers",[1] covers only a fraction of the slum dwellers. By 2020, there could be 1.4 billion slum dwellers, if no action is taken to prevent the emergence of new slums. The urban challenge dictates a much broader and ambitious approach, rather than the improvement of a small portion of the world's estimated slum dwellers provided for in the Millennium Declaration.

F. Secure tenure

7. Bringing the urban poor into the formal economy through secure tenure is essential for slum upgrading. The according of property rights can effectively counter problems of urban poverty. A pro-poor land policy that emphasizes a range of affordable tenure options needs to be promoted. Regularizing settlements, in accordance with prevalent

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

laws in each country, and in-situ upgrading should be regarded as intrinsic to town and city development strategies, with provision being made for affordable serviced land to prevent new slum formation.

G. Post-conflict and post-natural disaster reconstruction

8. The process of sustainable human settlements development in many countries has been hampered by natural disasters and conflicts. Practical and sustainable strategies are needed for disaster prevention and preparedness, and for responding effectively to housing, land and property issues in reintegration and recovery situations. UN-Habitat reconstruction efforts in post-conflict and post-disaster situations are commendable. There is a need to strengthen the capacity of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to deliver post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction in a sustainable manner.

H. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

9. For sustainable urban development, governments at all levels, particularly at the local level, must be empowered to act decisively and effectively in response to the needs of their citizens. Improved urban governance at the local level is also a prerequisite for meeting the goals of sustainable development. The efforts currently under way in this context by UN-Habitat and associations of local authorities need to be further strengthened.

I. Enhancing the participation of civil society in local governance

10. The active involvement of civil society in local governance is a necessary condition for overcoming the challenges of urban development. While inclusiveness is not predicated upon specific practices, structures and procedures, it remains a fundamental tenet of improved urban governance. An adequate degree of empowerment for civil society to engage fully in partnership arrangements with national and local governments is required for the effective engagement of civil society. Civic and democratic values should be promoted in a manner consistent with the laws and culture of each country.

J. Gender and sustainable human settlements

11. Promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment should be an integral part of poverty reduction strategies and programmes. Countries should be encouraged to empower women by removing or reviewing laws that are discriminatory to women, especially those relating to property rights, and to promote actions in favour of strengthening and rendering effective women's rights to land and shelter. Legal recognition and the effective implementation of women's equal property rights are essential preconditions for effective slum upgrading.

K. Women's participation

12. Gender equality in human settlements development and the empowerment of women are effective means of combating poverty and stimulating the development of human settlements that are truly sustainable. Government at all levels must be encouraged to formulate and strengthen policies and practices to promote the full and equal participation of women in human settlements planning and decision-making.

L. Youth and human settlements development

13. The involvement and inclusion of youth in society and political processes are vital to sustainable human settlements development. Young people must be able to participate and use their own forms of expression in international, national and local forums. Support for the creation of representative national youth councils and support for youth organizations are important ways of ensuring youth participation.

M. Financing sustainable human settlements development:

14. Sustainable urban development requires developed countries to fulfil their commitment under the Monterrey Consensus[2], namely, to enable developing countries, particularly countries in Africa, to meet the time-bound targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals. The heavy indebtedness of many African countries is impeding their capacity to tackle housing and urban development issues. Increased international development assistance and debt relief for these countries need to be considered, to enable them to meet the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goals.

N. Financing slum upgrading

15. Attracting domestic private and community-based capital for the purposes of slum upgrading is essential, though not always sufficient. Innovative financing mechanisms that promote partnerships among slum dwellers, bankers and local and central governments need to be further strengthened. The Slum Upgrading Facility of UN-Habitat is one example of such financing facilities.

O. Financing water and sanitation

16. Meeting the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation in developing countries poses daunting challenges, as many countries, especially in Africa, will not be able to achieve these targets without adequate financial support. Through its programmes in Africa and Asia the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund of UN-Habitat demonstrates the partnership of UN-Habitat with development finance institutions and is supported by many Governments. Further strengthening of such existing facilities and promotion of similar

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[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

facilities to assist developing countries in meeting the water and sanitation targets is urgently needed.

P. UNEP–UN-Habitat cooperation

17. Cities have a significant impact on the environment and therefore play a crucial role in developing responses for a better local, national and global environment. UNEP and UN-Habitat should therefore emphasize the need for linking local environmental issues with global ones; and for developing local capacities both for better local assessments and prioritization, and for enabling local responses to regional and global environmental agreements, particularly on such priority concerns as climate change, land-based sources of marine pollution and protection of biodiversity. In so doing, cities and their citizens will become aware of the crucial role they play in the global environment, which, in turn, will improve local environment.

Q. Role of UN-Habitat at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

18. At its thirteenth session, the Commission on Sustainable Development needs to recognize the role of UN-Habitat as the designated focal point in the United Nations system for human settlements in the follow-up to the outcomes of that session and to look beyond the thirteenth session for its links with other themes to be considered at the Commission's future sessions. The existing mechanisms of UN-Habitat, such as the Global Urban Observatory, monitoring of target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals, the best-practices database, and others, should be used to follow up on the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. UN-Habitat needs further to pursue the partnerships for sustainable human settlements development through an Urban Sustainability network of local authorities, civil society and other partners, to identify lessons learnt, to develop tools and to build the capacity of those partners.

R. Role of UN-Habitat in future cycles of the Commission on Sustainable Development

19. At its thirteenth session, the Commission on Sustainable Development faces the challenge of defining specific actions for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on water, sanitation and human settlements. This places UN-Habitat in a good position to contribute to an improvement in access to basic services. The support of UN-Habitat in this respect is vital. Slum-upgrading is of key importance in this Commission on Sustainable Development cycle, and the urban dimension will continue to play a key role in the Commission's future cycles. It must be recognized that UN-Habitat should have a significant role at the Commission's fourteenth session, where energy, climate and air quality are among the issues to be discussed. This is because, globally, human settlements are large consumers of energy and consequently large producers of carbon dioxide and other emissions.

Annex VII

List of documents before the Governing Council at its twentieth session

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
		Notification by the Executive Director
3	HSP/GC/20/1	Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Governing Council
3	HSP/GC/20/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda including organization of work: Note by the secretariat
4	HSP/GC/20/2	Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: Progress report of the Executive Director
4	HSP/GC/20/2/Add.1	Report of the Executive Director on the second session of the World Urban Forum, Barcelona, 13–17 September 2004
4	HSP/GC/20/2/Add.2	Report of the second session of the World Urban Forum
4	HSP/GC/20/2/Add.3	Human settlements development in the occupied Palestinian territories: Report of the Executive Director
4	HSP/GC/20/2/Add.4	Global report on human settlements, 2005
4	HSP/GC/20/2/Add.5	UN-Habitat and the youth: strategy for enhanced engagement
4	HSP/GC/20/3	Report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the inter-sessional period
4	HSP/GC/20/3/Add.1	Draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat: Note by the secretariat
5	HSP/GC/20/4	Involvement of civil society in improving local governance
5	HSP/GC/20/5	Post conflict, natural and human-made disasters assessment and reconstruction
6	HSP/GC/20/6	Implementing the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers
6	HSP/GC/20/6/Add.1	Monitoring the implementation of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
7	HSP/GC/20/7	Recommendations on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities
8	HSP/GC/20/8	Strengthening of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
9	HSP/GC/20/9	Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2006–2007 and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2006–2007: Report of the Executive Director
9	HSP/GC/20/9/Add.1	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2006 – 2007: Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
9	HSP/GC/20/9/Add.2	UN-Habitat strategic framework for the period 2006–2007: report of the Executive Director
10	HSP/GC/20/10	Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme
10	HSP/GC/20/11	Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations
10	HSP/GC/20/12	Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Governing Council
11	HSP/GC/20/13	Themes for the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council
12	HSP/GC/20/14	Other matters
13	HSP/GC/20/15	Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council
3	HSP/GC/20/INF/1	State of preparedness of documents for the Governing Council at its twentieth session as at 4 February 2005

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
3	HSP/GC/20/INF/2	List of documents before the Governing Council
4	HSP/GC/20/INF/3	Operational activities report, 2005
4	HSP/GC/20/INF/4	Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat
9	HSP/GC/20/INF/5	Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as on 28 February 2005
4	HSP/GC/20/INF/6	Progress report in implementing the Global Campaigns on Urban Governance and Secure Tenure: Report on resolution 19/3
4	HSP/GC/20/INF/7	Report on the evaluation of the Global Campaigns on Urban Governance and Secure Tenure
4	HSP/GC/20/INF/8	Durban Declaration on the Establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and Enhanced Framework of Implementation and Related Outputs
4	HSP/GC/20/INF/9	In-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
4	HSP/GC/20/INF/10	Questions and answers on selected issues raised by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme during its preparations for the twentieth session of the Governing Council
8	HSP/GC/20/INF/11	Towards sustainable shelter finance systems: policy directions emerging from the Global Report on Human Settlements 2005: Financing Shelter and Urban Development
4	HSP/GC/20/INF/12	List of participants
9	HSP/GC/20/9/BD/1	Draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 2006–2007: note by the Secretariat

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
9	HSP/GC/20/9/BD/2	United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: Financial report for the biennium ended 31 December 2004 and report of the Board of Auditors: note by the Secretariat
10	HSP/GC/20/BD/3	Principal resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions

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